Cal State officials call for student fee increase

Terence Chea  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California State University officials said Tuesday they will ask its Board of Trustees to approve a 10-percent increase in student fees to help offset state budget cuts to the 23-campus system.

Annual systemwide fees would rise to $3,354 for undergraduates, $3,894 for students in teacher credential programs and $4,134 for graduate students.

"Raising student fees is a difficult choice, but we have to make that choice in order to serve our 460,000 students and maintain as much quality as we possibly can," CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said.

Adding fees charged at individual campuses, CSU undergraduates on average would pay $4,155 in annual fees in 2009-10 — far less than at comparable universities nationwide, officials said.

The fee hike is expected to generate an additional $127 million in revenue, though about one-third would be set aside for student financial aid.

"We have a very strong financial aid program in place," said Assistant Vice Chancellor Robert Torena. "We strive to do everything we can to maintain affordability."
Students head back to school Tuesday morning at Rocori Middle School in Cold Spring, Minn., after the school closed last week due to a case of the swine flu.

Mike Stobbe  
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — U.S. health officials are no longer recommending that schools close if students come down with swine flu, the government said Tuesday.

Last week, schools were advised to shut down for about two weeks if there were suspected cases of swine flu. Hundreds of schools around the country have followed the government’s guidance and closed schools, giving students an unexpected vacation and leaving parents scrambling for child care.

“We no longer feel that school closure is warranted,” said Dr. Richard Besser, acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the threat seemed to diminish, health officials also considered the problems the closings were creating for parents, Besser said. Officials were hearing about children getting dropped off at libraries, or parents who couldn’t take sick leave to care for their children.

“Downsides of school closure start to outweigh the benefits,” Besser said.

The change in guidance was made in consultation with the White House and other officials, Besser and others said. An estimated 726 public and nonpublic schools were closed Tuesday for flu-related reasons, in 24 states and the District of Columbia, according to the Education Department. In total, these schools enroll approximately 466,000 students on a typical day. (There are more than 100,000 schools in the U.S., with about 55 million students.)

The number of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States is now over 400, with hundreds more probable cases. The CDC knows of 35 swine flu-related hospitalizations and one death, a Mexican toddler who died in Texas.

Nearly two of every three cases are under the age of 18, CDC officials said.

Local school officials still have the ultimate say in whether to close or not, CDC officials noted.

In the new guidance, the CDC recommends that when children or school staff are sick, they stay home. Those who do go to school should practice good hygiene — like coughing into their sleeve or shoulder instead of their hands or the air, and washing their hands well and often.

United States no longer advising schools close for swine flu cases
**WORD ON THE STREET**

"Do you have any qualms with the Cal Poly waitlist process?"

"Not lately. I've been here for five years and it has actually improved."

-Scott Chapman, computer engineering senior

"I've run into classes that have a waitlist but I always just give up on trying to get into them."

-Michelle Cristobal, political science senior

"Teachers completely disregard the order of the waitlist."

-Jimmy Cavanaugh, business junior

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**Mexican dominance irks other Latinos**

Manuel Valdes
ASSOCIATE PROF.

With mariachis, tequila and pa­
rades, Cinco De Mayo will be cel­

erated this week in parties across the nation, kicking off a commemo­

ration of Mexican heritage in the United States as a pseudo-holiday that has been adopted by the general populations.

But for Dagoberto Reyes, a Sal­
vadorian immigrant living in Los Angeles, May 5 is more a reminder of the dominance Mexican culture has in a country that is home to im­

igrants from many Latin American countries. His prime example: Los Angeles-area public schools.

"Our kids go to this school sys­
tem, and the school system is more preoccupied with Mexico's history, and not the rest of Latin America's, much less El Salvador's," said Reyes, director of Casa de la Cultura, a Sal­
vadorian community center. "They came back celebrating Cinco De Mayo. That holiday means nothing to us."

It's a popular misconception that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day. The date actually cel­

brates the 1862 Battle of Puebla, in which Mexican forces stopped an in­
vading French army. It's a date barely celebrated in Mexico and not in any other Latin American country.

Mexican-born immigrants make up the largest group of foreign-born Latin Americans at almost 11 mil­

lion, a number that nears the total of immigrants from all other Latin American countries, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. As a re­sult, Mexican culture has been the dominant Latino force in the United States, often leaving other Latinos to adapt or resent.

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**CALL FOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURER AWARD NOMINATIONS**

The Cal Poly chapter of the California Faculty Association (CFA) is seeking nominations from students, faculty and staff for the "Distinguished Lecturer Awards." The awards are given annually to Cal Poly lecturers from any department or program.

Criteria: teaching excellence is the primary criterion, but if the nominee has engaged in professional development activities and service as well, these items should be mentioned.

Please provide specific examples that support your nomination and include the name of the nominee and department as well as your name and department and contact information.

Nomination Deadline: May 15, 2009

To nominate someone send your nomination through campus mail to:

Dorothy Pippin
CFA Office
Building 38-141
or email to
dpippin@calpoly.edu

Award winners will receive $500.00 and a plaque. These awards will be presented at the CFA and of the year barbeque to be held at Cuesta Park during finals week.

Previous award winners are not eligible. The following list of award winners is provided.

Mohal Agrawal
Kim Bellah
Cynthia Breaux
Barbara Black
Zeijka Howard

Pam Malkin
Jero Ramsey
Jim Cashing
Robert Clark
Kerry Cochran

Aaron Rodrigues
Claudia Royal
Kevin Sites
Lavish Call
Dave Hall

Gary Weisenberger
Rosemary Wild
Melba Zullcar
Eithany Elghandour
Alternative Breaks encourages student volunteerism

Lauren Rabino
Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Four years after Hurricane Katrina, red signs still mark the doors of destroyed homes in the "9th Ward, talking the number of deceased people and pets who once lived within. "It was creepy. A little cute to see," said business junior Lauren Clark, who traveled to New Orleans with 14 other students to do volunteer work in March.

"When I told people about the trip, people would tell me: 'Aren't you going a little late?,'" Clark said. "But, no, there's a lot to be done."

The New Orleans trip is just one of many to come for Cal Poly Alternative Breaks — a new program that helps students plan trips domestically and abroad to volunteer in underprivileged communities between quarters.

Alternative Breaks started two years ago when the first group of students decided to travel to New Orleans through Student Life and Leadership. After rising interest in the program, the organization successfully made the two trips to New Orleans, one to Jamaica and is planning an upcoming trip to Oaxaca, Mexico.

"The mission of alternative breaks is to provide students the opportunity to reflect on positions of privilege," said parks, tourism and recreation administration junior Jody Weseman. She has been the Alternative Breaks coordinator since fall 2008.

Before coming to Cal Poly, 29-year-old Weseman worked for the California Conservation Corps and did volunteer work around the country.

Working in the forest and park service meant being laid off in the snowy winter. During her off-time, Weseman traveled abroad instead of paying rent in the United States.

For her, philanthropy is food for the soul.

"I want to live the rest of my life somehow making enough money to live, but always directed at helping the greater good, the greater global community," she said. "For me it's not a question, it's just something I've always done."

Weseman said travel and immersion in another culture is one of the most life-changing experiences one can have.

"You can study all you want about all the cultures, but until you're out of your comfort zone, eating their foods, sleeping in their beds, breathing their air, there's no way to get that perspective," she said.

A week in New Orleans

This past spring break, Cal Poly students traveled again to New Orleans where the group assisted children at an elementary school, served food at a church and helped paint homes.

"Going on the trip as a perfect mixture of volunteering and touring the city where the group was imprinted in the culture of New Orleans."

From witnessing the death-tailed doors to working in a strained educational system, Clark said her experience was a real eye-opener.

"I had no idea what was going on there. It definitely changed my view on things going on in the country. The federal government looks over a lot," Clark said.

"There are people need so much help. The people feel so abandoned down there. I just learned a whole other lifestyle that exists in this country."

One factor that surprised Clark was the racism that exists among young school children.

"A lot of the kids there have just grown up with racism," Clark said. "When I arrived, a girl who had blond hair like me, came up to me and the first thing the other students said: 'Oh, she's like you.' You could tell there was a separation of black kids and white kids."

The Cal Poly students served as role models to the children, who were largely from impoverished communities within New Orleans.

Clark observed a shortage of teachers and lack of discipline within the education system.

"I mean, I think we just made the lack of discipline," Clark said, reflecting on her time with them. During their stay at the church, the group met many community members that came in for a meal. Due to the age and race of the children, Clark said he remembers his story as forever imprinted in her mind.

After his house flooded and he lost his cat, he stayed in the Superdome without food or bathrooms. In an attempt to find comfort elsewhere, he washed through the water to the convention center, but conditions were no better.

A year after the initial devastation, he found his cat.

"I just feel like they understood what we were doing," Clark said. "You could tell just the power, knowing that there's this group of college students that are willing to put their spring break and go rebuild the city."

The next trip

The next group will travel to Oaxaca, Mexico from July 24 to August 7, where they will work with the Commission for Defense of Human Rights, harvest plants and learn traditional weavings from Veza Nueza — a woman's cooperative and visit the Monte Alban and Mitla ruins.

Although there has been talk in the media about dangerous Mexican drug cartels, Weseman says it's safe.

"That's like saying don't go to the U.S. because L.A. has gangs," she told a group of students. "I could tell there was a separation of black kids and white kids."

Then trip will partner with Pro-World, a volunteer and study abroad program, for the fall trip.

"It's structured, but not so that you don't have freedom," Weseman said during the information session.

The future of the program

Although Alternative Breaks is widely unknown, Weseman said that based on her feedback from the New Orleans trip, the program has huge potential.

Of the 15 students who attended the New Orleans trip, eight are now working as volunteers in the program to help other students have the same opportunity.

"From the New Orleans trip, the 15 of us really made a difference," liberal studies senior Amanda Jefferson says. "We were just kind of pumped up about getting the word out and doing more."

The volunteers are writing marketing plans, promoting the trip to Spanish classes, developing a logo and writing grant proposals. If popularity for the program continues, Weseman said she'd like to see another coordinator hired so two groups of 15 students could attend. Although the coordinators have planned all trips so far, the eventual goal is for trips to be planned around students' needs.

"We want alternative breaks to be a place for students to go when they have a passion to go somewhere and do a service," Weseman said.

For example, if a student wanted to do a senior project based around volunteer work abroad, he or she could use Alternative Breaks as a medium for advancing that trip.

"You can learn by reading, you can know by doing, but you don't really have a full understanding until you've lived it," Weseman said. "It's just really powerful to be selfless for at least one week of your life."
When Manchester Orchestra's "I'm Like a Virgin Losing a Child" came out in 2006, both fans and critics weren't exactly sure what to make of it. The record was certainly ambitious — hell, just look at the title — but the songs weren't quite so epic to back up front man (then teenage boy) Andy Hull's philosophical meanderings. Let alone that I once played the record for a friend who subsequently asked if it was the new Saves the Day.

But fast forward three years, thousands of tour miles and a generous helping of musical development, and Manchester Orchestra have returned with "Mean Everything to Nothing," a record that feels fully cooked on all fronts. And it tastes, or rather, sounds, stunning.

The band's centerpiece has always been Hull's emotive (read: vast understatement) vocals, varying from a near-whisper to some serious throat-shredding, all tied together by the notion that the dude really, truly means it. And that doesn't change on Mean Everything to Nothing — if anything, Hull is even further out front to the benefit of the band. The 22-year-old bearded Southerner is a hell of a front man from both the performance and lyrical standpoint. His voice has a distinct Brock-ian quality in both its variance and its almost mysterious beauty, but Brock seems to know his own over-the-top-ness, Hull's bleeding-heart and often bleeding-palm (religious imagery aside) sincerity makes the music that much more affecting.

The songs on Nothing rock like more complex and layered "Finkerton"-era Weezer tunes with significantly more emphasis on faith and Manchester, page 7
Crafters abound at annual fair

In the midst of election mania, the Cal Poly Spring Craft Fair took over UU Plaza Tuesday. The three-day event will run through today and features student craft and art work. The sale is open to students and community members. Participants sell their work as a part of the fair, put on by the ASI Craft O nter every year. Some students hope to make a personal profit, while others plan to donate any money they earn. Samples of their work include (from top left) jewelry, bags, shirts, vases and clothing.

Calif. pageant eyes Prejean for contract violations

Miss California, Carrie Prejean, waves as she comes on stage at the Rock Church during services in San Diego. Prejean said she'll be working with the National Organization for Marriage to "protect traditional marriages.

In recent weeks, Vermont and Iowa have legalized same-sex marriage while New York, Maine and New Hampshire have taken steps in that direction.

Lisa Leff

San Francisco (AP) — The directors of the Miss California USA pageant are looking into whether tit­le holder Carrie Prejean violated her contract by working with a national group opposed to gay marriage and by posing semi-nude when she was a teenage model.

Pageant spokesman Roger Neal said Tuesday it appears Prejean has run afoul of several sections of the 12-page contract that all prospective contestants were required to sign before competing in the November state contest.

The detailed document prohibits the titular Miss California from making personal appearances, giving interviews or making commercials without permission from pageant officials. In the last 10 days, Prejean has made televised appearances at her San Diego church and on behalf of the National Organization for Mar­riage, a group opposed to same-sex marriage.

The contract also contains a clause asking participants to say whether they have conducted themselves "in accordance with the highest ethical and moral standards." As an example, it asks if they have ever been photo­graphed nude or partially nude.

"As you can see from the con­tract, she violated multiple items," Neal said in an e-mail to The Associ­ated Press.

A photo of Prejean wearing only pink panties with her back turned to the camera appeared Monday on the gossip blog thedirty.com. She issued a statement early Tuesday saying she posed for the shot when she was a 17-year-old model and objected to its release as an attempt to belittle her religious faith: "I am a Christian, and I am a model. Models pose for pic­tures, including lingerie and swim­wear photos."

Prejean spokeswoman Melany Ethridge said she could not comment on the contract because she was un­familiar with its contents. Ethridge said she had not heard the pageant directors were reviewing it.

Prejean, a San Diego native who attends San Diego Christian Col­lege, was named the first runner-up to Miss North Carolina in the Miss USA pageant April 19. Her response to a question during the pageant that she opposed extending marriage to gays and lesbians made her a media sensation, dazing of religious coment-

see Prejean, page 7
Manchester
continued from page 5

and lose than sex and paranoia. But that comparison alone would rob the record of much of its auraal depth — throw in some early My Morning Rockers Dead Confederate and the Dead Confederates and the target of embarrassing

Continued from page 6

She was crying inside your stomach," he said. She was crying inside your stomach."

"Shake It Out" seems like the real beginning to the album — open­ing with frantic guitar stabs and Hull singing so frenetically I can picture him looking nervously around the room and pulling his own hair out as lines like "I am the living ghost of what you need / I am everything eternally / God, just speak!" shoot out like stray bullets.

Then the levy bursts and Hull screams the song's title like a man possessed while his band somehow manages to furiously keep up the pace with huge percus­sion and muscular walls of guitars.

"In My Teeth" is Manchester's take on an Utensil-style Nirvana, and, believe it or not, it works. Marvel­ously. The song's intro even sounds like the type of riff Cobain would've loved to write, not to mention the drum-dun (pause) dun-dun guitar drops during the verses were lifted from "Lithium." Still, the similarity isn't grating — if anything it's refresh­ing, a return to form for angi­cally keeping up the pace with huge percussion and muscular walls of guitars."

"Nothing" isn't all Hull's flailing around like a rag doll, though. "I Can Feel a Hot One" is a gorgeous, slowly- slogging ballad in which Hull builds and deconstructs his melody in each verse, never gaining too much inten­sity but steadily pushing his thoughts forward. When he sings: "To pray for what I thought were angels / Ended up being ambulances / And the Lord showed me dreams of my daughter / She was crying inside your stomach," whether you believe him or not, think it's true or beautiful, it's near impossible to feel nothing. And when Hull sings, "I'm gon­na leave you the first chance I get" on the sprawling, 11-minute "The River," you'd be a fool not to believe him. The scary part is figuring out if he's singing to God, to his audience or to his own oft-tortured, scared and brilliant mind.

Prejean
continued from page 6

California's activities, including the right to revoke her crown for breach­ing in provisions.

On the day last week that Prejean was in Washington with National Organizations for Marriage leaders to announce her support for a new ad­vertisement the group created based on her pageant experience, Keith Lewis, co-director of the California contest, expressed concern.

"There is a contract that all par­ticipants sign that is very involved and serious, that lasts a lot of their activities," said Lewis, a Los An­geles talent agent who is gay. "I can tell you that this is unprecedented in what is occurring because the behav­ior is not consistent with either what we've seen with other title holders or what you would see with somebody who has signed this contract."
Although the Mustang Daily has endorsed a candidate for ASI president in past years, we will not be doing so this year. An endorsement is a sought-after stamp of approval and a significant statement to make regarding someone’s qualifications—which is exactly why we choose to endorse nobody this year.

Joe McElroy, Kelly Griggs and Jacob Alvarez would each bring their respective qualifications and ideas to the position; however, and would each be assets to ASI and the student body—but simply put, nobody shines enough for us. We can’t endorse anyone this year because no candidate is clearly worthy of an endorsement.

It’s hard to even pick out distinct platforms amongst the three. Jacob Alvarez has all commendable goals for improved student-advisor communication, greater transparency of ASI processes and campus sustainability and diversity ideas. All three have addressed some budgetary and student fee concerns. Yet nobody in particular sets him or herself apart from the other two.

Before we would endorse, we wanted to know exactly what this new leader would bring to the student body. What we found was that although each candidate brings ideas to the table, none of them presents long-term, actionable plans to bring those ideas to fruition.

McElroy has fresh and innovative ideas but a lack of experience and he’s emphasized the need for greater transparency within student government. Specifically, he’s said that he’d like to utilize the Web to make more information, such as the ASI budget, readily available to students online. While these are good ideas, they still don’t add up to a complete and solid platform. McElroy’s lack of leadership experience is cause for concern as the university faces daunting and unprecedented new challenges. The ideas are there, but he fails to paint the big picture.

Griggs is running her platform based on the idea that, if elected, she would have no personal agenda. She sees the job of ASI president as a mere conduit between students and administration, and while this is a noble idea in theory, in practice a president must have clear and actionable goals for her tenure. Griggs does promise to pursue registration reforms if elected. However, she outlines no plan of how to implement the changes she’s pushing for, including better class availability and a clearer registration process. Her background in student government is admirable, but she gives no clear path to the changes she promises and relies heavily on the ‘no agenda’ motto.

Alvarez’s commitment to budgetary transparency is encouraging, especially during a time in which Cal Poly students are more concerned than ever about where each dollar of their tuition money is going. However, most of his ideas seem more transient. He’s given quick fixes for less-than-long-term solutions. And he gives no realistic outline for his larger ideas; giving registration priority to graduating seniors sounds great, but how will it be achieved?

Like Griggs, he too has previous student government experience, which while an asset, doesn’t supplement the lack of actionable goals.

We encourage you, if you have not yet done so, to review the campaign coverage so far (conveniently located in one place on our Web site: www.mustangdaily.net/hot-topics/asi-elections) and to make your own informed conclusions, because this year we simply can’t tell you who to vote for. And since this is an instant runoff election, choose your second choice wisely, without a clear frontrunner, this vote could come down to who has the most second place votes.

This year, instead of outlining their platforms in detail during the campaign process, the candidates relied too much on campaign buzzwords like ‘diversity’ and ‘sustainability’ to do their talking. They’re too much alike to differentiate between their ideas, their platforms and their personal qualifications. All three have good ideas, nobody stands out as a leader with the ability to follow through, certainly not enough to warrant a stall endorsement. Maybe this year ASI elections will feature someone with a little less rhetoric and a little more substance.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Alvaraz most enthusiastic and qualified candidate

I’m writing in support of ASI presidential candidate Jacob Alvarez. I am a member of Cal Poly College Republicans, the ASI University Union Advisory Board, and I have had the pleasure of working with Jacob directly in student government for the entire 2008-2009 school year.

His enthusiasm in his work as Student Development Secretary on the ASI President’s Executive Cabinet is one way he demonstrates his passion for serving the students. He has spear-headed the CLA Career Fair and played an integral role in Voter Registration for Democracy Week, the Diversity Forum, the Cal Poly Respect Campaign and the AIDS Walk.

Not only is he a selfless and devoted user, he is always willing to advocate on students behalf. Over the past few months, he has directly lobbied with legislators in Sacramento on behalf of higher education with Blakers. In conjunction with lobbying, he serves on the College Based Fee Committee for his respective department, psychology, and is also on the Cal Poly Strategic Planning Committee. He is a student-citizen, person, filled with enthusiasm, with hopes to make Cal Poly a more inclusive and collaborative University. His campaign motto describes himself perfectly, "Your Cal Poly. Your ASI."

Sarah Sterrelli
English sophomore

Alvaraz has talent and skill to lead Cal Poly

As a member of the ASI Student Government, I know how important these elections are, something that I did not completely understand until this year. By putting on particular events, managing your money, representing Cal Poly within San Luis Obispo and the state, and all other activities, you who vote for Wednesday and Thursday does make a substantial difference.

Though I cannot predict how things would have turned out differently, I have been able to see how Angela Kramer has changed this campaign for the better. For brevity, I will focus on the events ASI has on our immediate community. As the ASI Secretary of Community relations, I have been building relationships with various local office holders and community leaders to gauge how students and non-university community members interact and how we can strengthen this relationship. Without Angela’s positive standing in the community, as well as her forwardness and ability to work through problems that inevitably arise, my job would have been nearly impossible.

Seeing this importance I am endorsing Jacob Alvarez for ASI President. I have been able to work closely with Jacob last year and have been impressed with his work ethic and personal skills, attributes that are paramount to the position.

Though I am sure Cal Poly will be in good hands with any of the candidates, Jacob Alvarez has the talent and skill set that I know first hand will be an asset to Cal Poly.

Connor Johnston
ASI Secretary of Community Relations
The ‘War on Drugs’: the fight against a victimless crime

A recent article in The Economist pointed out the rather disturbing statistic that while the U.K. houses a mere 5 percent of the world's population, it incarcerates roughly 25 percent of the world's prison population.

Unfortunately, the fastest growing segment of the prison population, convicted drug users, is jailed not on the grounds of having committed acts of violence against their peers, but for being guilty of a “crime” committed against themselves, namely, using drugs.

Few would disagree that people must be punished (by the state or otherwise) for certain abuses against their neighbor. It is an obvious point, well-established by both time and experience, that there must be appropriate discouragements in place against such abuses or the dangers of violence and predation might appear too sweet and tempting to the unscrupulous and the powerful. Even if it’s not a self-evident point, it’s a critical arrangement that must be realized before the possibility of any functioning, peaceable society has any enduring validity.

But just because people have commonly agreed amongst themselves that certain instruments of deterrence ought to be in place to reduce the occurrence of crimes—like murder, theft, and rape—is not also clear that people have reached such a consent when it comes to crimes that an individual commits against himself.

Yet this is the major and underlying justification for the “War on Drugs,” that colossal campaign exhausting billions upon billions from the taxpayers’ treasury, which is being waged with full and fearful martial ag­gression against a non-human “enemy.”

Our system of justice is one which purports to punish those for having done something wrong. Such a premise obviously presupposes a moralistic foundation which, whether it is popular or not to acknowledge the origins of such justification, is widely accepted nonetheless.

Since the U.S. government arrests far more people for drug offenses than for any other single crime in the U.S., it is safe to assume that the government considers drug use to be a very wrong act indeed (Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation). This viewpoint seems to be mainly justified by the potential harm that may result from certain drugs. There even exists a clinical term for the crime—“drug abuse.” Of course, not all drugs are in fact harmful to the human body. Many in the medical profession actually insist upon the health benefits of certain illegal drugs. And considering that tobacco happens to be more addictive than most of the other drugs currently in existence and can lead to some rather nasty side effects, the grounds for arguing that certain drugs ought to be prohibited based on their negative health effects is a bit specious and hollow.

But let us not quibble about the peripheral issue of whether certain drugs are healthy or unhealthy. Let us return to the idea, which underlies our justice system, that a criminal should be punished for doing something wrong. In this case, the “crime” (I have space only to speak of drug users themselves) involves simply the individual voluntarily in­gesting, injecting, or otherwise consuming a substance. Hence, one must ask: can the government justify punishing individuals for such a deed?

Either a man has a right to himself or he does not. If he has such a right, how can it be argued that he does not have a right to also harm himself, or, in this case, commit an act which the government happens to define as harmful? If we truly allow that a person has a right to himself, let him chop off his limbs and re­frain from being hooked by light of the mor­ning sun, who is to demand that he does not have such a right? And if he does not have the right to his own life, answer this: who possesses such a right on his behalf?

Surely, taking one’s own life is a tasteless act except under the rarest circumstances, but is it wrong? I do not intend to belabor this ques­tion in a philosophical sense which presumes a final reckoning with God, but rather in its purest pragmatic form, which is, appropriately, both the realm and the limit of the state.

If drug use is a sin, let God punish perpet­uators however severely he wishes. But punishing sins to God’s benefit is not the state’s. The state must be concerned with the more locally responsible pos­sibilities of punishing crimes. And how can an individual commit a crime against himself?

Does an individual deserve to be punished when there is no accuser? Does it make sense to punish a man for stealing his own wallet?

Is drug use a self-ish vice, is it un­becoming, is it cren­ted and crude? So be it. Men are often guilty of com­mitting self-indulgent and base acts in fact, by brief look around you will confirm that the overwhelming majority of mankind devotes the majority of their time to such behaviors. Person­ally, I neither approve nor allow d r i g s for use myself. But given all the other shameful vices that my fallen nature all too readily succumbs to, I am not about to elevate myself to the lofty and undeserved sta­tion of condemning and judging the vices of my fellow men when such vices happen to only themselves. Certainly, no legislator or judge can have such a right on our behalf.

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarian Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

Be our guest!

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentators.

Send your commentaries of about 500 words, and on an original topic to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Please include your year and major.

Not all commentaries are printed. Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length, and profanity.
Giants continued from page 12

Francisco Giants put three runs on the board for him before he threw his first pitch, and Chicago Cubs manager Lou Pinella used a lineup with hardly any proven big league hitters.

"It makes life easier," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said of Ben- gie Molina's three-run homer in a 6-2 victory over the Cubs. "We've been looking for a big hit and Bengie jump-started us there."

The Giants had been averaging only 3.3 runs, worst in the majors, and had failed to score a single run for their last three starting pitchers.

Molina's off Sean Marshall (0-2) instantly provided Lincecum (3-1) with his magic number. He instantly provided Lincecum with a lineup that included six players them swinging."

Among those starting for the Cubs was Bobby Scales, a 31-year-old infielder making his big league debut after spending 11 years in the minors.

Scales, who supplements his income by working as a substitute teacher during the offseason, singled in the fifth inning and later scored on Marshall's single to cut San Francisco's lead to 3-2.

"I don't know how long I'm going to be here, so go ahead and get one mark on the board," said Scales, who went 1-for-4, made a diving catch on a line drive, and ended the game by striking out.

"I knew for a fact that I could play here. That never wavered. Whether you get opportunities or not, that's not up to me. No matter what happens the rest of the way, they can't take it from me. I got it. I earned it. And I'm just fortunate to have it."

The Giants broke open the game with a three-run eighth that featured Aaron Rowand's two-run double off reliever Jeff Samardzija.

"That's what we've been missing — that timely hit, especially a double or home run," Bochy said. "We got two of them today against a good ballclub."

Like most San Francisco hitters lately, Molina and Rowand had been struggling. Molina was in a 4-for-23 slump and Rowand had gone hitless in his previous 20 at-bats.

Soccer continued from page 12

Cruz Andl and Atlante is set to go ahead. Atlante leads 2-0 after the first leg. The winner of the home-and-away series qualifies for the FIFA Club World Cup in December in United Arab Emirates.

The second leg was to have been played last Wednesday.

Mexico's professional baseball league will resume Wednesday af- ter suspending all games from May 1-5. It was not immediately clear if the games would be played with fans.

President Felipe Calderon said high schools and universities will reopen Thursday and younger children will return to school May 11. Nightclubs and other events that draw large crowds will remain closed.

In Albuquerque, N.M., high school-sports organizers defended a decision to suspend this week's games because of swine flu concerns. The New Mex- ico Activities Association cited fair- ness, emphasizing the move was made to place all schools on equal footing.

District and state championships in baseball, softball track and field, golf and tennis were affected. All events were tentatively rescheduled for the week of May 11.
Rogers hits previous stats out of the park

I think what has changed for me from previous years is how I approach every at bat.

—Jessica Rogers
Cal Poly softball player

Mexican soccer remains behind closed doors

Stephen Wade
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — All pro soccer games in Mexico this weekend will again be played without fans because of swine flu. The decision comes even though other parts of the country are returning to normal following a shutdown to contain the virus.

Mexico’s 176 league games — from the first to third division — were shuttered last weekend and three games around the capital were canceled and called,” she said. “I also always chew gum in every game and I hardly chew it off the field. If we have a double header I’ll put like, five pieces in my back pocket.”

Rogers is originally from Santa Maria, which allows her family to come watch her play. “They’ve been to all my home games,” she said. “My mom has been traveling to watch this year because it’s my last season.”

After graduation Rogers is planning on becoming a physician’s assistant. But playing softball in college has left its mark on her. “I am going to miss the competition and the game itself,” she said. “It is such a different feeling playing at this level.”

Rogers may sport the number two on her uniform, but this year she has been playing like she is number one starting every game at center field. “She has always been really positive and a team player, she has always wanted the team to succeed,” Condon said. “She’s done a great job as a role player and now as a starter.”

Scott Silvey

Lincecum, Giants shut down Cubs

San Francisco pitcher Tim Lincecum throws during the Giants’ 6-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field on Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Young winner got a double bonus Tuesday. His offense-challenged San Francisco team had no trouble scoring runs against the Chicago Cubs, as Lincecum improved to 8-2.

Associated Press